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U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/697,929

REMARKS

I. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 10-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,048 to Gormish et al. ("GORMISH") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0005298 to Smith et al. ("SMITH").

It is axiomatic that the combination of references in support of an obviousness rejection must disclose every element of the rejected claim.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a secure document access method, comprising:  
at a multi-function peripheral,

- capturing content of a document;
- generating a key from a cryptographic engine;
- encrypting the content of the document using said key;
- encoding the key;
- storing said encrypted document;
- communicating the encoded key to at least one authorized user; and
- enabling access to the content of the encrypted document utilizing said key by the at least one authorized user.

1. GORMISH Has Failed to Disclose or Suggest a Single Multi-Function Peripheral that is Enabled to Perform the Recited Steps in Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a multi-function peripheral that is enabled to perform all the recited steps.

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GORMISH discloses a system for securely transmitting a document by fax that requires at least three separate devices. In GORMISH, a first device (402) encrypts a document and transmits the document to a second device (404). A receiver picks up the encrypted document at the second device (404) then at a later time scans the document into a third device (406) to be decrypted by the third device. The receiver inputs a decryption key into the third device (406) which then outputs the decrypted document. See GORMISH, col. 7, lines 11-29 and Figures 1 and 4.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a single multi-function peripheral that is able to encrypt a document, store the encrypted document, generate a key, encode the key, send the key to an authorized user, and enable the user to access the encrypted document at the peripheral using the key. Thus, all the steps can be conveniently performed by a single device without requiring a user to move from device to device.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that GORMISH does not disclose the steps as recited in claim 1.

2. SMITH Has Failed to Disclose or Suggest a Single Multi-Function Peripheral that is Enabled to Perform the Recited Steps in Claim 1

Smith also does not disclose a single multi-function peripheral able to perform all the steps recited in claim 1. The Examiner cited SMITH for allegedly disclosing the steps of encoding a key and communicating the encoded key to a user.

SMITH does not disclose any multi-function peripheral able to provide secure access to a document stored on the peripheral.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of GORMISH and SMITH does not disclose the steps as recited in claim 1.

B. Claims 2-12

Claims 2-12 are dependent on claim 1. Based on the foregoing arguments regarding claim 1, these dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance.

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C. Independent Claims 13, 14 and 24

Independent claims 13, 14 and 24 include similar limitations as discussed above regarding claim 1. Thus, based on the foregoing arguments regarding claim 1, these claims should also be in condition for allowance.

D. Claims 15-23

Claims 15-23 are dependent on claim 14. Based on the foregoing regarding claim 14, these dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections Regarding Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GORMISH, in view of SMITH and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0042880 to Endoh. Based on the foregoing regarding the independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the §103 rejections of these dependent claims are now moot and these claims are in condition for allowance.

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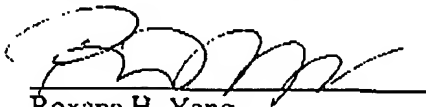
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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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